REMARKS:

Status of Claims

Claims 22-38 were previously pending with claims 22 and 31 being independent. Claims 22 and 31 have been amended herein, claims 36-37 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 46-47 are newly added. Thus, claims 22-35, 38, and 46-47 remain pending with claims 22 and 31 being independent.

Office Action

In the July 22, 2010, Office Action, the Examiner rejected all pending claims as being obvious in view of Ran (US 6,317,686) and Blair (US 2003/0145005).

Overview

Track logs are used in navigational aid devices to provide an indication of where the device has been. Specifically, track logs are arrays of points used to track a location of the navigational aid device. Track logs may be visualized as a trail of electronic bread crumbs, where each bread crumb is a track log point that identifies a position and a time the device was at that position. Thus, track logs are purely historical, since they provide an indication of where the device has been. Simply put, a track log is an electronic version of Hansel and Gretel's bread crumb trail, with each track log point equating to a dropped bread crumb.

Many navigational aid devices having Global Positioning System (GPS) capabilities record track logs. It is known to facilitate selection (e.g., creation) of a track log by presenting a user with a menu that shows recorded start and/or end points. However, the claimed functionality is not limited to selecting track logs by the endpoints corresponding to existing track logs. Rather, embodiments of the claimed functionality allow a desired track log to be selected from any portion of a set of track log points, or even a time associated with a track log, thereby allowing more powerful and flexible applications for the navigational aid devices.

Thus, for example, assume a user employs an embodiment of the present invention while traveling on foot from the U.S. Patent Office, north to King Street Station, and then west to the George Washington Memorial. A track log could be created documenting the user's exact path between these places. However, in prior art systems, the user would be limited to accessing the entire track log for review and replay. Embodiments of the claimed functionality would allow

the user to specify any arbitrary endpoints to select (e.g., create) a new track log. For example, the user could enter new endpoints of Duke Street and King Street to create a new track log from the previous track log points associated with the user's first trip from the U.S. Patent Office to the George Washington Memorial. In some configurations, such as those corresponding to claim 31, a user could specify a time for the endpoints (e.g., 12PM and 12:15PM) as opposed to a location (Duke Street and King Street).

Ran and Blair do not teach custom track logs

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Ran and Blair does not teach or render obvious the above-described functionality.

Applicant and the Examiner are in agreement that Ran does not specify track logs. The Examiner asserts that Blair teaches track logs. Applicant respectfully notes that Blair does not use the term "track log" or otherwise appear to disclose track log functionality. However, Applicant does not dispute the existence of track logs and track log points in the prior art, as is fully described in Applicant's own Background section.

What is not disclosed by the combination of Ran, Blair, and the general track log prior art discussed in Applicant's Background, is providing an interface that enables a user to create a new track log from an existing track log by specifying arbitrary endpoints (e.g., starting and ending locations). The independent claims have been amended herein to more clearly recite this functionality.

For instance, claim 1 now recites that the device can select a desired track log, from track log points corresponding to a first track log, based on endpoint locations specified by a user. For example, the desired track log could include any portion of the first track log based on the arbitrary locations specified by the user (e.g., Duke Street and King Street in the above example). Ran and Blair, in any combination, do not disclose this functionality.

Claim 31 now recites that the device can select a desired track log, from track log points corresponding to a first track log, based on endpoint *time*s specified by a user. For example, the desired track log could include any portion of the first track log based on the arbitrary times specified by the user (e.g., 12 PM and 12:15PM in the above example). Ran and Blair, in any combination, do not disclose this functionality.

Ran teaches various historical data that is not arranged into track log points corresponding to previous device locations. Ran further provides no teachings that allow arbitrary selection of historical data points to create a track log or other point grouping. Ran does not teach any selection of historical points for the creation of a new track or route. Ran's teachings within FIGS. 6, 7B, 8, and 9 and column 22 (cited by the Examiner) merely relate to the specification of desired route information and not the selection of historical or other data points to form a new point grouping.

Blair does not remedy these deficiencies. Blair, paragraph 6 (cited by the Examiner), merely discloses that a user may save destinations coordinates for later use. Saving destination coordinates is unrelated to track logs and unrelated to specifying two arbitrary endpoints for track log selection/creation. At best, Blair paragraph 6 merely discloses saving a single track log point that may be used later—as opposed to saving a whole track log that may later be divided using arbitrary user endpoint inputs.

Thus, combining Blair, Ran, and/or Applicant's Background section does not produce the functionality recited in the independent claims. No combination of this information provides any teachings related to an interface that enables a user to create a new track log from an existing track log by specifying arbitrary endpoints (e.g., by specifying endpoint locations or times).

Conclusion

Should any questions remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned. Any additional fee which is due in connection with this Amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 501-791.

Respectfully submitted,

By:
/Samuel M. Korte/
Samuel M. Korte, Reg. No. 56,557
Garmin International, Inc.
1200 East 151st Street
Olathe, KS 66062
(913) 440-5421
patents@garmin.com